

California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network Participant:

Join the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network and Beverly H. van Buuren, Amara F. Vandervort, Eric J. von der Geest from the SWAMP QA Team from your own workspace for a 1-hour Webinar session “How to Select and Work with a Laboratory”. The webinar will be on Thursday, May 19 from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Please login 15 minutes early, see the instructions below to join the webinar.

How to Select and Work with a Laboratory

Laboratories and field crews play a vital role in SWAMP-comparable projects. They are in many ways the starting point of the information collection process. Information that is utilized to answer questions or address concerns related to the ambient water quality in California. It is therefore critical that the laboratories and field crews contracted to perform work for SWAMP-comparable projects are able to meet the quality assurance (QA) requirements stipulated by the SWAMP QA program.

But what specifically are these requirements? And how can a project manager efficiently determine whether or not the contractor is capable to deliver data that meets the SWAMP QA standard? This course presents information project managers can use to help when selecting contractors to perform work on SWAMP-comparable programs and projects. It will cover questions managers can present to prospective contractors and how to assess the answers. Once a project is underway, how does a project manager communicate with the laboratory and receive the type of information needed to complete a project? This course also covers how to work with the project laboratory and troubleshoot data quality issues.

A practical application exercise will walk participants through the process of identifying the QA requirements for a small set of analytes.

While this course is delivered in the context of SWAMP-comparability, almost all of the information is applicable to any environmental studies project or program.

Webinar Outline

The SWAMP Quality Assurance Requirements

- Where do I find the SWAMP QA requirements?
- What requirements do the laboratory or field crew need to meet?
- How should these requirements be communicated?
- QA requirements for non-SWAMP parameters.

Assessing the Laboratory

- Assessing the organizational structure of the laboratory
- Assessing the “QA acumen” of the laboratory
- Assessing if the laboratory will deliver adequate customer service
- Assessing if the laboratory will meet reporting requirements

Methods for Ensuring Compliance with QA Requirements

- Contracts

- SWAMP QA Program resources

Example Program-Practical Application Exercise

- Determine the QA requirements for a small set of analytes

Desired Outcome

The audience will gain an understanding of:

- How to identify relevant SWAMP QA requirements
- Which QA requirements need to be communicated to the contractor
- Methods for ensuring the requirements are understood and followed
- How to work with a laboratory over the duration of a project
- How to work through problems with a laboratory

Presenters:

Beverly H. van Buuren

QA Researcher

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Beverly H. van Buuren has 17 years of experience in research science with specialties and publications in quality assurance (QA) and metals speciation. She is manager of the QA Research Group at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML). Prior to her appointment at MLML, Ms. van Buuren was the Director of Research and Consulting, and a co-owner, of a private analytical laboratory and consulting firm. The QA Research Group consists of six, full-time staff members working at various levels on several projects. The group is currently focused the State of California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). Prior to SWAMP, the QA Research Group developed and implemented and the CALFED/California Bay-Delta Authority Mercury Speciation Monitoring and Research Studies QA Oversight Program. The QA Research Group is also involved in a variety of smaller projects, including QA project plan review and research in areas such as sample holding times and preservation techniques. Ms. van Buuren is the SWAMP QA Officer.

Amara F. Vandervort

QA Researcher

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Amara F. Vandervort has 15 years of experience in environmental science concentrated in trace metals speciation and quality assurance as well as laboratory management. She is assistant manager of the QA Research Group at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. Prior to joining the QA Research Group, Ms. Vandervort was the Analytical Laboratory Manager and a co-owner of a private analytical laboratory with a staff of 85.

Eric J. von der Geest

Quality Assurance Specialist

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Eric J. von der Geest has 20 years of experience as an analytical chemist focusing on low-level mercury speciation. He has also worked as a project manager at a private analytical laboratory where he gained valuable experience acting as intermediary between the laboratory and the clients. Since 2005, Mr. von der Geest has worked with the QA Research Group at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories as a Quality Assurance Specialist for California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program.

Topic: CWQMCN Webinar: How to Select and Work with a Laboratory

Date: Thursday, May 19, 2011

Time: 11:15 am, Pacific Daylight Time (San Francisco, GMT-07:00)

Meeting Number: 741 922 519

Meeting Password: wqmwebinar

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We have set up a web page for the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/monitoring_council/collaboration_network/index.shtml

Materials (if available), including past webinars will be posted on the website. The recorded webinars and associated materials are located under 'Monthly Webinars'. We hope to use this web page to help you network with each other and with the larger monitoring community. So, feel free to give us your ideas on how to make it better.

New participants can join the webinar listserv by signing up on the web at
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml. Enter your email address and name, place a check mark next to "Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network - Webinar Sessions", then click the "subscribe" button.

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Many of us in the water quality monitoring community have been looking for a California forum for sharing our ideas, successes and common concerns. In response to that need, the California Water Quality Monitoring Council is partnering with the Water Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program, the Nonpoint Source Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to launch a monthly conference call to support the activities of regional monitoring programs.

The Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network began as a voluntary monthly conference call that members of the monitoring community participated in and discussed

topics meeting their interests. The conference call format and content varied in response to input from participants and subsequently changed to a Webinar format. Sessions are planned to share technical and support tools for monitoring, assessment and reporting; to encourage discussion on common concerns like information management; and to provide a forum for networking.

It is envisioned that the Collaboration network will help support a state framework to coordinate consistent and scientifically defensible methods and strategies for improving water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting.

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Meeting Number: 741 922 519
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